Met Office

Autumn 2015

The following represents an assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Autumn 2015 (September, October and November) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

September and October were generally quiet and settled with high pressure often bringing dry, sunny conditions - especially for the north and west; clear skies resulted in typical autumnal frost and fog at times. However, November was a mostly very mild, dull and unsettled month with several autumn storms - including Abigail, Barney and Clodagh - bringing windy conditions and some very wet weather to upland areas of the north and west. The contrasting character of the months resulted in overall seasonal statistics which are fairly unremarkable.

Mean temperatures were below average in September, slightly above in October, and well above in November, with anomalies of -0.8 °C, +0.5 °C and +2.0 °C respectively. September was coolest relative to average in the south and this was the coldest September for England and Wales since 1994. In October, maximum temperatures were above average, especially in the far north-west, but minimum temperatures were mostly close to average. November was very mild everywhere but especially across southern England. It was the third warmest November in the series (behind 1994 and 2011).

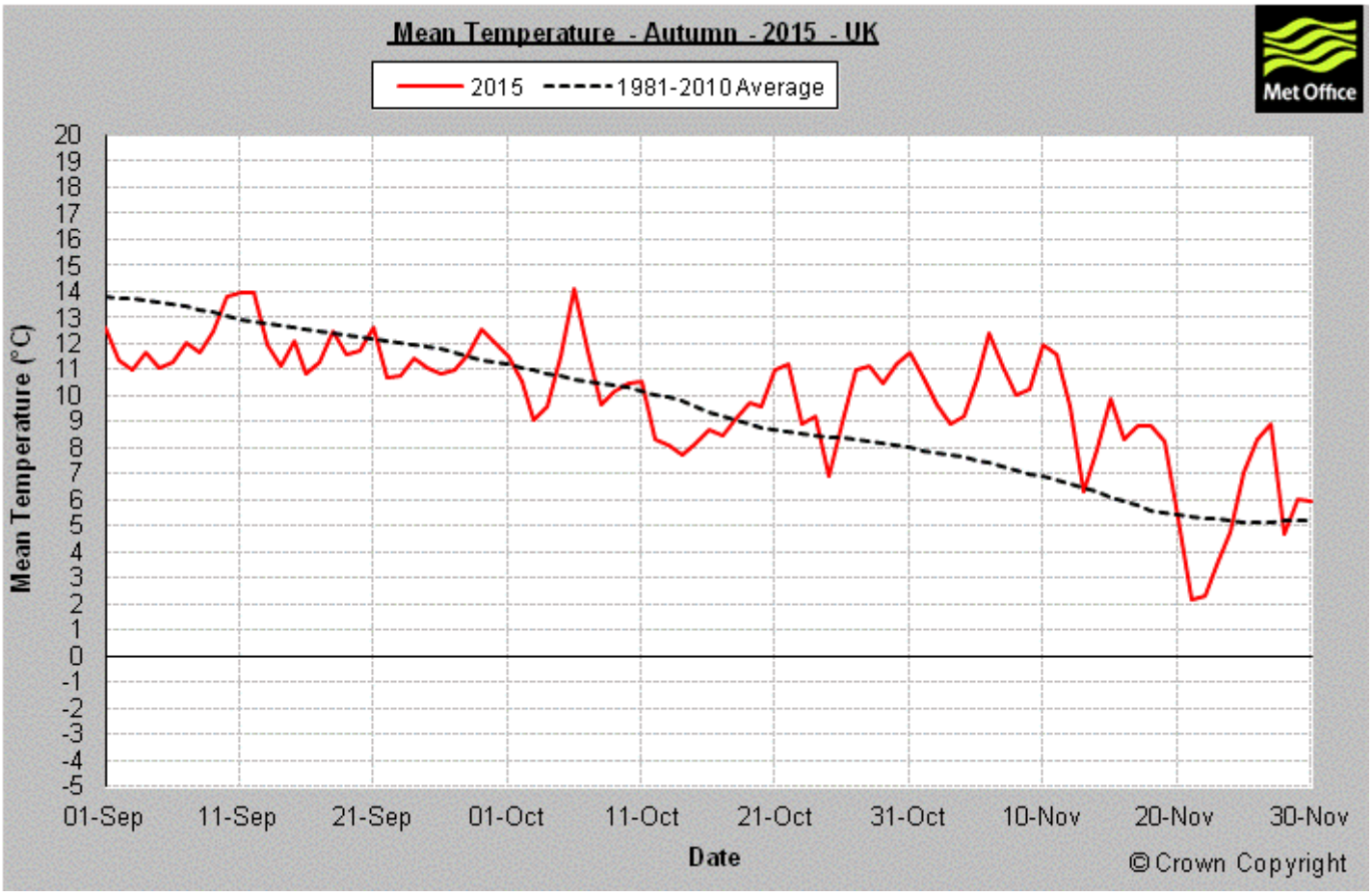
September was a dry month in the north and west, with less than a third of normal rainfall across central and western Scotland. Rainfall totals were near normal in the south. October continued dry with only half the normal rainfall amount or less across Wales, Cumbria and Scotland. In contrast, November saw more than 200% of average rainfall across southern Scotland and upland areas of northern England and North Wales. For Scotland this was the fourth wettest November in the series. The UK rainfall anomalies were: September 54%; October 57%; November 143%.

September was a sunny month for all except the Northern Isles with more than 120% of average sunshine amounts quite widely; it was the fourth sunniest September in the UK series from 1929. October was another sunny month for Northern Ireland and Scotland, especially the far north-west, but sunshine totals were below average across much of southern and eastern England. November was very dull with only around 50% of average sunshine hours quite widely; it was the dullest November in the UK series.

The animation below shows the weather of autumn 2015 from the Met Office Unified Model. The panel shows 250 hPa wind (corresponding to an altitude of approximately 10km coincident with the Jet Stream), and 850 hPa actual temperature. The animation runs from 1 September 2015 to 30 November 2015 with a 3 hour time-step. Courtesy David Fereday, Met Office Hadley Centre.

UK statistical summary

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	**Rainfall**	**Sunshine**
The mean value is 10.0 °C, which is 0.6 °C above the 1981-2010 average.	The total is 298 mm, which is 86% of the 1981-2010 average.	The total is 285 hours, which is 104% of the 1981-2010 average.


Mean Temperature - Autumn - 2015 - UK
2015
1981-2010 Average
Met Office
Mean Temperature (°C)
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
-3
-4
-5
01-Sep
11-Sep
21-Sep
01-Oct
11-Oct
21-Oct
31-Oct
10-Nov
20-Nov
30-Nov
Date
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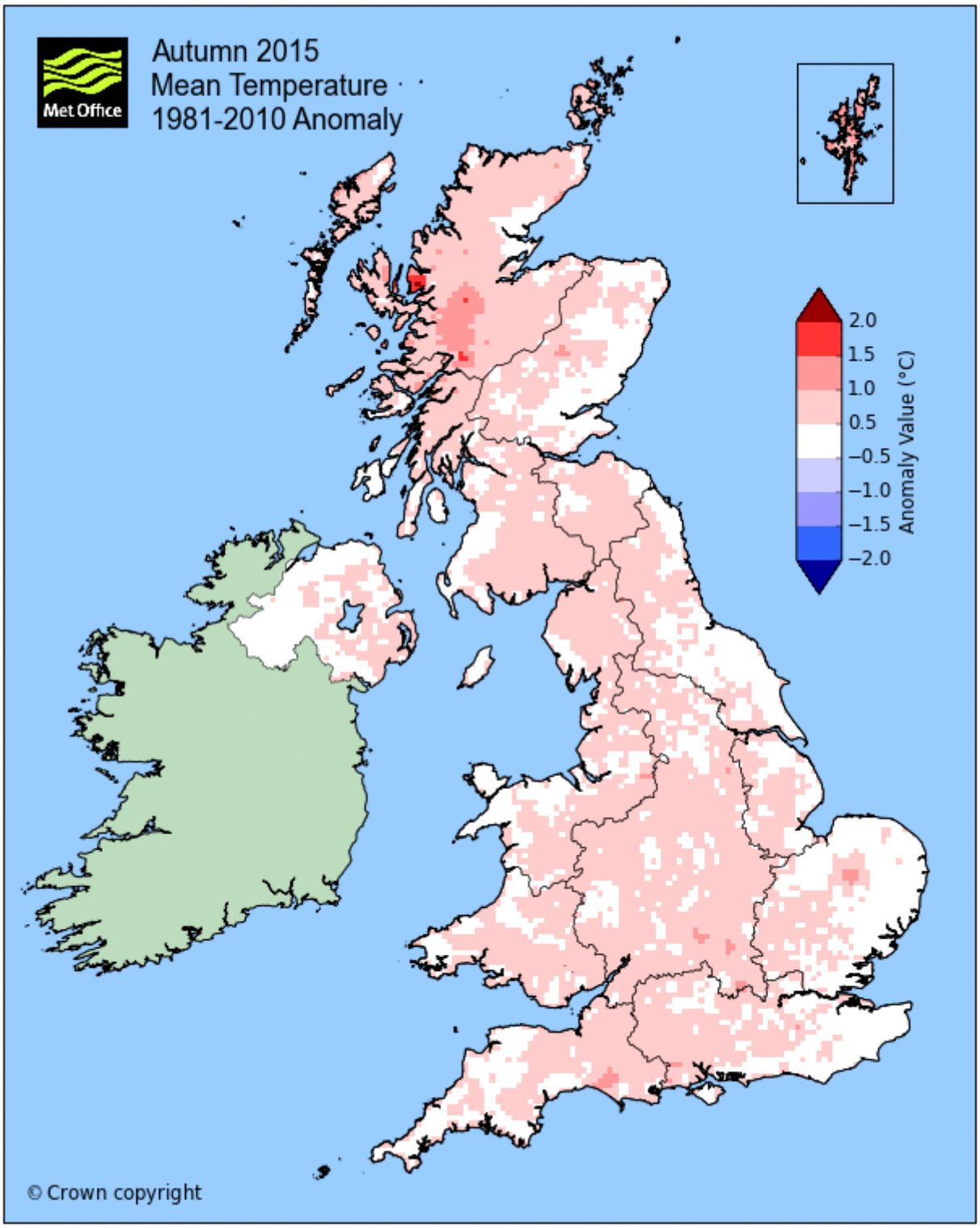
Met Office
Autumn 2015
Mean Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
−0.5
−1.0
−1.5
−2.0
Anomaly Value (°C)
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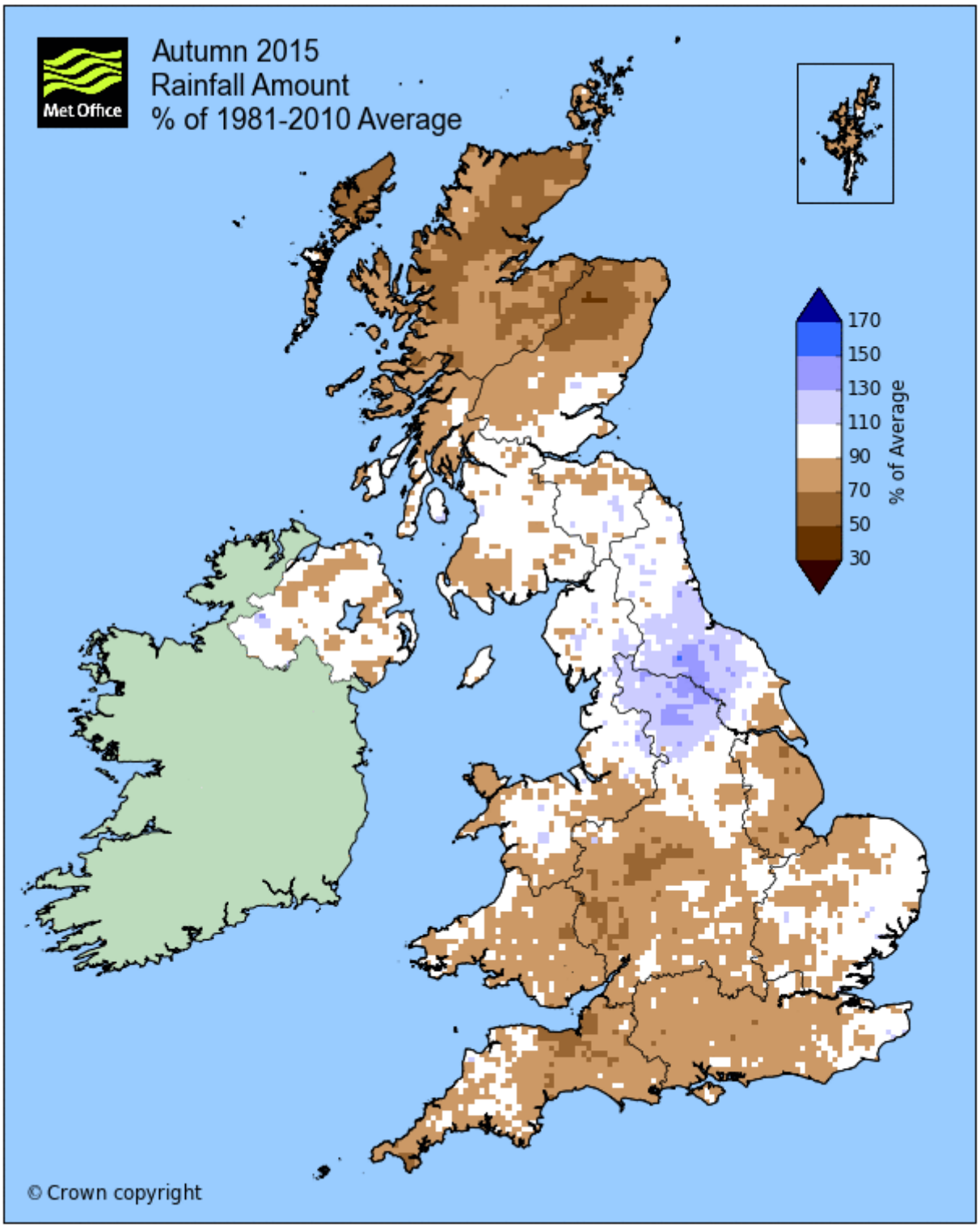
Met Office
Autumn 2015
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average
170
150
130
110
90
70
50
30
% of Average
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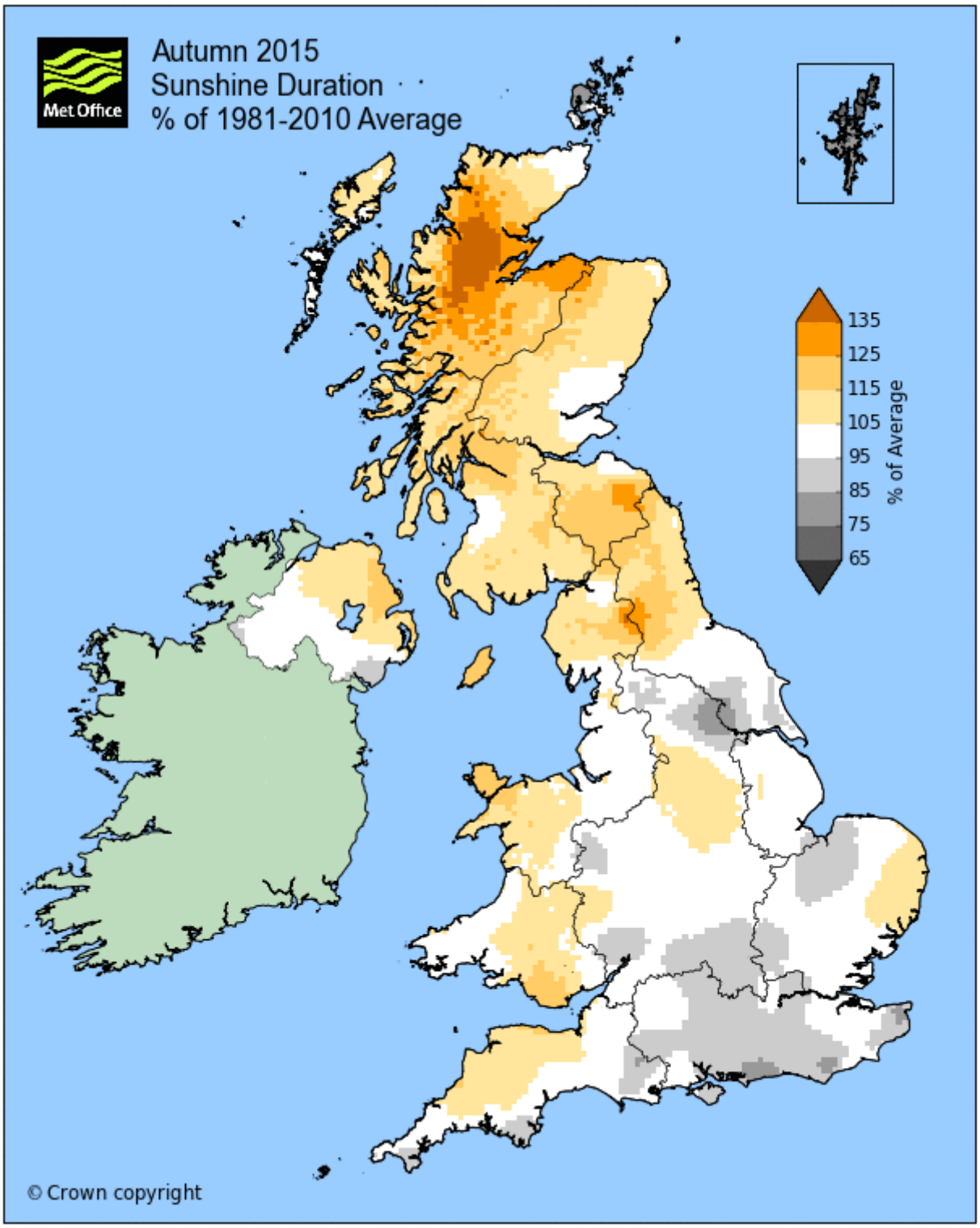

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